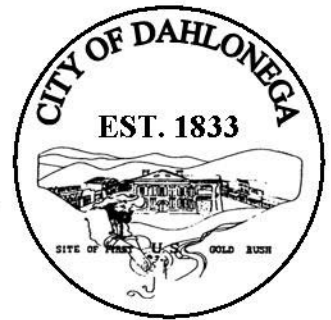


# City Limits

News from the Government Offices of Dahlonega, Georgia

Vol.4, No. 1

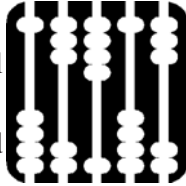
May 2008



This newsletter is a collaborative project of the city of Dahlonega and Lumpkin County, designed to help citizens stay informed. Editor: Lee Ann Roy, Independent Writer

## It All Adds Up

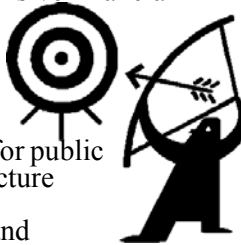
Ask Joel Cordle "How's it going?" and he can tell you. Exactly. As Better Hometown/Main Street manager, Joel is required to keep certain statistics gleaned from business licenses, construction permits, real estate transaction records and other sources. He shared the 2007 Economic Impact Report recently with city council members. Among the highlights: More than \$2 million spent on 17 building "rehab," 34 full- and part-time jobs (net) created from 15 new businesses locating downtown, and a total of \$7,322,162 in property investments for the year—that's more than double the property investments in 2006 and more than five times the 2005 total.



## City Outlines Top Ten Goals

Progress continues toward the accomplishment of 10 goals set by the Dahlonega City Council at its annual retreat in February. Here's a run-down of top items on the To-Do list:

1. Hire personnel for new positions and continue staff development focus. Plan space needs for new city hall to include growing staff.
2. Begin process of planning, financing and design of Hillcrest property for city hall.
3. Adopt comprehensive financial policy.
4. Plan and construct structure at Hancock Park.
5. Begin planning for public works infrastructure upgrades.
6. Develop goals and objectives for quarterly review of city manager, who will develop goals and objectives for department heads as basis for salary increases.
7. Continue working toward storm water master plan.
8. Review and revise as needed at least four city ordinances per month as part of ongoing comprehensive ordinance review.
9. Establish a plan to replace retiring employees
10. Evaluate street lighting in the historic district and on main entrance ways into town.



## Master Plan...What's Next

After months of planning, research, discussions, stakeholder interviews, public visioning sessions and community input, a planning team with Urban Collage, Inc., recently presented to the community a 10-year development master plan designed to allow—even encourage—downtown growth without sacrificing Dahlonega's unique character and valuable historic resources. So what happens next? Joel Cordle, Dahlonega Downtown Development Authority director, says the project steering committee of a dozen or so residents and property owners will continue to meet over the years to guide implementation of doable portions of the plan. A plan of this scope is not intended to be built out immediately, he says. Rather, putting the community's ideas to paper is a way to keep the shared vision in front of people as opportunities to make changes and improvement arise over time and investment dollars become available.



## Back by Popular Demand

Spring in Dahlonega brings some very popular events. Here are a few favorites, made possible by the Dahlonega Downtown Development Authority/Better Hometown program and a host of many friends:



### Appalachian Jam.

Acoustic bluegrass and old time string music Saturdays from 2-6 p.m. through October at the Dahlonega Gold Museum State Historic Site on the Public Square.

### First Friday Night Concert Series.

Free outdoor concerts on the Conner House Lawn on the Public Square the first Friday night of each month through October. All concerts from 6-8 pm. Don't miss the Remember When Band June 6.

### Dahlonega Farmers Market.

Quality produce, locally grown and fresh picked from the garden every Tuesday and Saturday in Hancock Park just off the historic Public Square. 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. or until products are sold.

## Waterworks: Contracts Awarded

Contracts have been awarded for the city's new water plant and distribution system scheduled for completion in early 2010. Southern Champion Contractors will construct the raw water intake—the actual water plant—and Haley Contractors, Inc., will build out the distribution lines. The 60-day pipeline portion of the job will begin first since plant construction can't start until water is available at the site. Although changes to the national bond market combined with regional impacts of the drought caused some delays, cost the city a bit more than planned and made for some tense moments, the council approved in March the \$27.5 million revenue bond that will finance the project. The plant is designed to have a 40-year lifespan. Initially, it will treat up to 4 million gallons of water per day. Ultimately, it will have a 10 million gallon per day capacity.



## Hey, Remember Us?

Dahlonega officials joined thousands of local officials in the nation's capital in March for the National League of Cities' annual Congressional-City Conference. Mayor Gary McCullough, council members Terry Peters and Guy LaBoa and city manager Bill Lewis combined the benefits of an excellent professional conference with visits to our elected federal officials to make sure they remember our needs "back home." Calling it a very productive two days, the city manager noted the personal visits in Washington D.C. are very important and our federal representatives and friends were very accommodating and willing to listen.



## City's Financial Health Good

A representative of Rushton and Company auditors presenting Dahlonega's fiscal year 2007 audit report in March gave the city a "clean" opinion letter and reported the city is in good financial health. He also said 2007 was a good year for Dahlonega, ending with a healthy fund balance and net assets of \$20,046,038.

# City of Dahlonega . . . continued from reverse side

## Small Business Owners Applauded

Dahlonega's Downtown Development Authority and Better Hometown board went all out in a March ceremony honoring Dahlonega's veteran small business owners. They thanked key volunteers, acknowledged private investments by downtown property owners and recognized the DDA's partner agencies—the Dahlonega Merchants Association and the Dahlonega-Lumpkin County Chamber of Commerce/Convention and Visitors Bureau—for their roles in the promotion and marketing of downtown Dahlonega. Here are some highlights from the awards portion of the celebration.

### Special Projects

- Achasta and Mary Miller for the new signage at Mary's Mini-Mall
- Dahlonega Gold Museum State Historic Site for landscape improvements
- Lee and Trish Creef of Back Porch Oyster Bar for landscape improvements
- The Welch family for production of a documentary on Dahlonega's gold history



### Adaptive Reuse of Commercial Properties

- The Gooch family for creating new commercial space for Ruby's Precision Hair Cutters and other uses from a vacant metal warehouse
- The Warner family and the Wilkins family for the conversion of the Park Place building into a 13-room luxury hotel
- Dale Solomich and Deb Naples and Toni DiCostanzo of Woodland's Edge for redesigning the interior and façade of the former Hometown Book Store
- Carol Williams and Greg and Rae Lynn Harmon for converting the Strickland House basement into a business space that now houses an Irish pub.

### Project Leadership Volunteer Awards

- The Master Gardeners and Greg Sheppard for conducting an inventory and conditions assessment of downtown trees in public rights of way
- Larry Sorohan for coordinating the First Friday Night Concert Series at Hancock Park
- Joe Matteson and Jim White for coordinating and managing the Appalachian Jams
- Dennis Hoover for graphic design of historic commercial district lamp post banners

### Golden Nail Award for repair and restoration of historic downtown commercial buildings 50+ years old

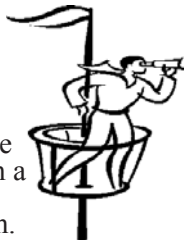
- Jon and Jay Stone for rear façade of Dahlonega General Store
- Woodrow Parks for repairs and repainting of 1855 Parks Clothing Shop building, downtown's oldest commercial structure.

### Cornerstone Business Awards honoring businesses operating 25 or more continuous years in the historic central business district

- Thomas Scanlin, Studio Jewelers
- The Owens family, The Fudge Factory
- Rachel Wilkerson, The Gold Shop
- Mary Miller, Mary's Mini-Mall and The Bear's Den
- Brad Walker, Brad Walker Pottery
- Alton Jarrard, Woody's Barber Shop
- Jon and Jay Stone, various enterprises
- The Welch family, The Smith House
- Norman Adams, Norman Adams Insurance Agency
- The Dover family, Dover Realty
- Ruby Gooch and family, Ruby's Precision Hair Cutters
- Roberta Butler Green Sims, various enterprises
- Paul and Frankie Stringer, Stringer Insurance Agency
- The West family, West Carpet Sales
- Billie Wimpy, A.G. Wimpy Company
- Woodrow Parks, Parks Clothing Shop

### City Intern Exploring Options

Rebecca Shirley attended North Georgia College & State University for a year before transferring to University of Georgia to earn a degree in international affairs in 2006. She never quite got Dahlonega out of her system. So when she decided, after working in D.C., to earn a master of public administration degree, she came back to NGCSU to do it. As part of that program, Rebecca is exploring career options as an intern with the city of Dahlonega. She's enjoying local government and the community involvement it entails, while the city is putting her to work on several projects. One of the first big ones she tackled was this spring's Great American Clean Up



### City Manager Selected for GMA Board

City manager Bill Lewis was selected to serve a four-year term on the Georgia Municipal Association's Employee Benefit Fund board of directors. He began serving his term in March. The group directs retirement, health insurance, life insurance and workers compensation insurance for the association. The board is responsible for oversight of a billion dollars in assets and serves almost 200 cities across the nation.

effort, for which she served as local coordinator.

## How May We Be of Service?

Question? Comment? Problem? Call City Hall at (706) 864-6133. We'll put you in touch with the right person.

### City Council

Gary McCullough, Mayor  
Michael Clemons  
Guy Laboa  
Gerald Lord  
Sam Norton  
Terry Peters

Bill Lewis, City Manager

### Please join us at our meetings!

Learn about your government by attending public meetings like these. Find the complete schedule at [www.cityofdahlonega.com](http://www.cityofdahlonega.com).

**City Council:** 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of each month at 6pm—City Hall

**Planning/Zoning Commission:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month at 7pm—City Hall

### Historic Preservation

**Commission:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 6pm—City Hall

### Dahlonega Downtown Development

**Authority:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month at 9am--City Hall

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